



**AGENDA ITEM:** Regional Council New and Revised Strategies

**BACKGROUND:** The following Regional Councils are requesting approval to make changes to their SFY13 funding plans:

- Phoenix/Yavapai Regional Area: Gila River Indian Community
- Maricopa Regional Area: Northwest Maricopa
- Northeast Regional Area: White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Central East Regional Area: Cochise
- Southeast Regional Area: Central Pima

Letters from the Regional Council Chairs are included for your review and provide information on the request(s) and a funding plan financial summary is provided to illustrate the changes to the overall funding plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The CEO recommends approval of all the proposed strategies and funding levels.



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

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May 18, 2012

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman  
First Things First Board  
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn,

The Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council continues to focus on the development of their School Based Pre-Kindergarten strategy. The Gila River Regional Partnership Council has worked at a grassroots level with elementary schools and at a policy level with the Tribal Government to secure a 50/50 match for pre-kindergarten throughout the region, beginning in SFY13.

In order for the Gila River Regional Partnership Council to meet the 50/50 funding obligation, the Regional Council has reviewed its three year budget and is proposing a decrease in funding of their Home Visitation allotment. The decision to decrease the home visitation allotment was a difficult one, made only after review of the existing home visitation resources funded outside of FTF. Home Visitation services are provided by Early Head Start, Face, and Public Health Nursing/Gila River Health Care. Through continued conversation, it was identified that the services currently funded by FTF will continue through funding from the Gila River Health Care and therefore families will continue to receive home visitation.

Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council requests the following change to the SFY13 funding plan: Decrease of funding of the Home Visitation Strategy from \$328,016 to \$150,000.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Priscilla Foote, Chair  
Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

## Proposed Funding Plan Summary

### FY 2013 - Gila River Indian Community

| Strategy                                  | Total Allotment:   | Current Allotment  | Proposed New Allotment | Awarded | Total Proposed | Recalculated Unawarded |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------|----------------|------------------------|
| Child Care Health Consultation            | \$5,040            | \$5,040            | -                      | -       |                | \$5,040                |
| Community Awareness                       | \$2,100            | \$2,100            | -                      | -       |                | \$2,100                |
| Conference Scholarships                   | \$16,000           | \$16,000           | -                      | -       |                | \$16,000               |
| Family, Friends & Neighbors               | \$50,000           | \$50,000           | -                      | -       |                | \$50,000               |
| Home Visitation                           | \$328,016          | \$328,016          | \$150,000              |         |                | \$150,000              |
| Media                                     | \$3,900            | \$3,900            | -                      | -       |                | \$3,900                |
| Native Language Preservation              | \$62,539           | \$62,539           | -                      | -       |                | \$62,539               |
| Parent Education Community-Based Training | \$100,650          | \$100,650          | -                      | -       |                | \$100,650              |
| Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships             | \$100,000          | \$205,432          | -                      | -       |                | \$205,432              |
| Quality First                             | \$36,112           | \$36,112           | -                      | -       |                | \$36,112               |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships     | \$151,441          | \$151,441          | -                      | -       |                | \$151,441              |
| Scholarships TEACH                        | \$13,200           | \$13,200           | -                      | -       |                | \$13,200               |
| Statewide Evaluation                      | \$30,119           | \$30,119           | -                      | -       |                | \$30,119               |
| Summer Transition to Kindergarten         | \$115,652          | \$115,652          | -                      | -       |                | \$115,652              |
| <b>Total Allotment:</b>                   | <b>\$1,014,769</b> | <b>\$1,120,201</b> | <b>\$150,000</b>       |         |                | <b>\$942,189</b>       |
| <b>Total Unallotted:</b>                  |                    | <b>\$269,330</b>   |                        |         |                |                        |



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May, 18, 2012

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman  
First Things First Board  
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn,

The Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council would like to solicit your approval to make the following proposed changes to the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's SFY 2013 Regional Funding Plan.

#### New and Revised Strategies:

The proposed changes to the Regional Partnership Council's SFY 2013 Funding Plan consist of an increase in funding to regional strategy **Mental Health Consultation** and a reduction in carry forward dollars in the amount of \$123,000. The attached *Funding Plan Summary* reflects how the proposed changes will impact the Regional Funding Plan Budget.

At the April 20, 2012 regular meeting of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, the Council voted to utilize carry forward dollars to increase its allotment to strategy **Mental Health Consultation** from \$369,000 to \$492,000. The allotment increase was approved with the intent that monies would be used to fund one additional Mental Health Consultant. The funding of an additional Mental Health Consultant will allow the Regional Partnership Council to address its existing waiting list, and also ensure that those Centers and Homes currently receiving Mental Health Consultation services under the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council do not lose services as a result of the regional boundary changes effective July 1, 2012.

At this time, the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council respectfully requests that the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board approve the Council's request to make the changes outlined above. The Regional Partnership Council is confident that the proposed changes are in the best interest of children and families in the Northwest Maricopa Region and support the Board approved priorities, aligning with the Early Childhood System that First Things First is working to build.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Deborah Pischke  
Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council



## Proposed Funding Plan Summary

FY 2013 - Northwest Maricopa

| Strategy                                  | Total Allocation:   |                     | Proposed New Allotment | Awarded | Recalculated Unawarded |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|
|   | Original Allotment  | Current Allotment   |                        |         |                        |
| Child Care Health Consultation            | \$171,360           | \$171,360           | -                      | -       | \$171,360              |
| Community Awareness                       | \$75,000            | \$75,000            | -                      | -       | \$75,000               |
| Community Outreach                        | \$83,000            | \$83,000            | -                      | -       | \$83,000               |
| Family Resource Centers                   | \$575,000           | \$575,000           | -                      | -       | \$100,000              |
| Food Security                             | \$100,000           | \$100,000           | -                      | -       | \$100,000              |
| Home Visitation                           | \$589,124           | \$589,124           | -                      | -       | \$89,124               |
| Media                                     | \$100,000           | \$100,000           | -                      | -       | \$100,000              |
| Mental Health Consultation                | \$369,000           | \$369,000           | \$492,000              | -       | \$492,000              |
| Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity       | \$700,000           | \$700,000           | -                      | -       | \$700,000              |
| Oral Health                               | \$400,000           | \$400,000           | -                      | -       | \$400,000              |
| Parent Education Community-Based Training | \$852,005           | \$852,005           | -                      | -       | \$552,005              |
| Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships             | \$2,000,000         | \$2,000,000         | -                      | -       | \$2,000,000            |
| Quality First                             | \$1,377,483         | \$1,377,483         | -                      | -       | \$1,377,483            |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships     | \$3,012,518         | \$2,796,518         | -                      | -       | \$2,796,518            |
| Recruitment - Stipends/Loan Forgiveness   | -                   | \$25,000            | -                      | -       | \$25,000               |
| Recruitment into Field                    | \$120,000           | \$120,000           | -                      | -       | \$120,000              |
| Scholarships non-TEACH                    | \$91,890            | \$91,890            | -                      | -       | \$91,890               |
| Scholarships TEACH                        | \$165,000           | \$165,000           | -                      | -       | \$165,000              |
| Service Coordination                      | -                   | \$50,000            | -                      | -       | \$50,000               |
| Statewide Evaluation                      | \$321,127           | \$321,127           | -                      | -       | \$321,127              |
| <b>Total Allotment:</b>                   | <b>\$11,102,507</b> | <b>\$10,961,507</b> | <b>\$11,084,507</b>    |         | <b>\$9,808,507</b>     |
| <b>Total Unallotted:</b>                  |                     | <b>\$2,388,680</b>  | <b>\$2,265,680</b>     |         |                        |



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April 3, 2012

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman  
First Things First Board  
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn,

The White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council is requesting your consideration and approval of a change to the SFY13 funding plan, inclusion of the Native Language Preservation strategy which was approved by the White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council at the April 3, 2012, Regional Partnership Council meetings. The Regional Council approved funding this strategy for State Fiscal Year 2013 at \$30,000.00

The Regional Council recognizes that the Apache language and heritage are fundamental elements to the lives of our children and their families, and without knowledge of their native language and culture, a large part of their identity will be lost. This strategy will address the early language and literacy development of White Mountain Apache children. The strategy will be initiated with the use of a consultant to identify and build relationships with respected Tribal elders who are fluent in the White Mountain Apache language. The knowledge base of the identified Tribal elders will serve as the foundation of the development of early literacy materials which will be the second phase of the strategy. The consultant will be asked to bring recommendations to the Regional Council, including content descriptions, materials that will be developed and utilized across the Reservation, as well as associated costs. Once the recommendations are submitted to the Regional Council, appropriate target service units numbers will be identified.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Laurel Endfield  
Chair

White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council

## Proposed Funding Plan Summary

### FY 2013 - White Mountain Apache Tribe

| Total Allocation:                            |                    | \$1,280,960       |                        |         |               |                        |  |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------|------------------------|--|
| Strategy                                     | Original Allotment | Current Allotment | Proposed New Allotment | Awarded | New NON-REGAs | Recalculated Unawarded |  |
| Child Care Health Consultation               | \$7,560            | \$7,560           | -                      | -       |               | \$7,560                |  |
| Community Awareness                          | \$30,000           | \$30,000          | -                      | -       |               | \$30,000               |  |
| Community Outreach                           | -                  | -                 | -                      | -       |               | -                      |  |
| Family Support – Children with Special Needs | \$125,000          | \$125,000         | \$30,000               | -       |               | \$125,000              |  |
| Native Language Preservation                 | -                  | -                 | -                      | -       |               | \$30,000               |  |
| Oral Health                                  | \$80,000           | \$80,000          | -                      | -       |               | \$80,000               |  |
| Parent Outreach and Awareness                | \$175,000          | \$175,000         | -                      | -       |               | \$175,000              |  |
| Quality First                                | \$49,693           | \$49,693          | -                      | -       |               | \$49,693               |  |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships        | \$128,882          | \$128,882         | -                      | -       |               | \$128,882              |  |
| Reach Out and Read                           | \$100,000          | \$100,000         | -                      | -       |               | \$100,000              |  |
| Scholarships non-TEACH                       | \$10,000           | \$10,000          | -                      | -       | \$10,000      | -                      |  |
| Scholarships TEACH                           | \$16,500           | \$16,500          | -                      | -       |               | \$16,500               |  |
| Service Coordination                         | -                  | -                 | -                      | -       |               | -                      |  |
| Statewide Evaluation                         | \$19,595           | \$19,595          | -                      | -       |               | \$19,595               |  |
| Total Allotment:                             |                    | \$742,230         | \$30,000               |         | \$10,000      | \$762,230              |  |
| Total Unallotted:                            |                    | \$538,730         |                        |         |               |                        |  |



|   |                              |              |              |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Strategy: Native Language Preservation</b>   |                              |              |              |
| <b>Strategy Description</b><br>Provides materials, awareness and outreach to promote native language and cultural acquisition for the young children of Tribal families.  |                              |              |              |
| <b>Strategy Narrative</b><br><p>The White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council has identified the need to maintain and support the White Mountain Apache language. The language is recognized as a threatened language because of the low number of tribal members who speak the language proficiently. Research suggests that young children who learn their home language first, and then learn the English language, have a better grasp of both languages by the time they enter kindergarten. This strategy will address the early language and literacy development of the White Mountain Apache children, using our native language alongside English. The Regional Partnership Council will implement this strategy in two phases. The first phase is a planning phase and a consultant will be identified to bring together and review existing materials and resources that are in the community, as well as developing respectful, collaborative relationships with Tribal elders to guide and inform this work. The consultant will present a proposal to the Regional Council with cost and production information related to publishing, printing, and recording native language materials. The second phase will be implementation of the proposal.</p> <p>The Apache language is a fundamental element of children's families and lives and without knowledge of their native language, a part of their identity will be gone. There are a handful of Apache elders who are fluent in speaking the Apache language, however many young parents do not speak the language and fewer still are teaching it to their children. The Regional Partnership Council is working to reverse this trend by supporting the Apache Language. Their concern is that the Apache language and integral components of the Apache heritage may be lost if efforts are not spent to recover it.</p> |                              |              |              |
| <b>Target Population Description</b><br><p>The priorities of this strategy are to support the Apache language of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. This strategy is a universal strategy and will reach all children and their families on the reservation. There are approximately 1900 children ages birth through 5 years old living in the region, and the intent is to eventually reach 100% of those children. Coordination and collaboration with agencies such as Head Start, ABC Day Care Center, Chaghache Day Care, Indian Health Services, and other community programs will play a vital role in implementing this strategy.</p> <p>The initial year of this project will be a planning phase; once the materials are created, a mechanism will be developed to determine how the materials will be distributed in the second and third year. The materials will be available to children, parents, grandparents, and family members. Overall, the strategy is viewed to support the use of the Apache language and help build strong positive identities in the Apache children and their families</p>   |                              |              |              |
| <b>Target Service Units</b>   | <b>FY 13</b>                 | <b>FY 14</b> | <b>FY 15</b> |
| Number of books distributed   | TBD after the planning phase | 0            | 0            |
| Number of children served   | TBD after the planning phase | 0            | 0            |



|  |                              |              |              |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Number of home and/or center-based providers | TBD after the planning phase | 0            | 0            |
| Number of participating adults               | TBD after the planning phase | 0            | 0            |
| Number of participating professionals        | TBD after the planning phase | 0            | 0            |
| <b>Funding Level</b>                         | <b>FY 13</b>                 | <b>FY 14</b> | <b>FY 15</b> |
| Native Language Enrichment                   | \$30,000                     | \$30,000     | \$30,000     |

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May 18, 2012

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman  
First Things First Board  
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn,

The Cochise Regional Partnership Council is presenting a line item adjustment to the SFY13 funding plan for board consideration. The adjustment is to address the Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness strategy which is currently part of the SFY12 Funding Plan. The Cochise Regional Partnership Council decided not to continue this strategy in SFY13. However, a new therapist was recruited into the region in January 2012. Due to this new therapist entering into a two year contract under this strategy in SFY12, additional dollars are needed in SFY13 to cover the costs associated with program administration in support of this contract. The newly recruited therapist will provide services within the Cochise region until January 2014. No new therapists will be recruited in SFY13 and all those participating in this program currently will continue to provide services in the region until the end of their two year contract.

The Cochise Regional Council is respectfully requesting the Board to approve this line item adjustment for SFY13. On May 17, 2012, the Regional Council discussed this adjustment and motioned to move \$10,580.00 from the carry forward line item to the Recruitment-Stipends/Loan Forgiveness line item for SFY13 to cover the costs associated with program administration.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

David Howe, Chair  
Cochise Regional Partnership Council

## Proposed Funding Plan Summary

FY 2013 - Cochise

| Strategy                                | Total Allocation:  | Current Allotment  | Proposed New Allotment | Awarded | New RECA         | Recalculated Unawarded |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------------|
| Child Care Health Consultation          | \$113,400          | \$113,400          | -                      | -       | -                | \$113,400              |
| Community Awareness                     | \$21,000           | \$21,000           | -                      | -       | -                | \$21,000               |
| Home Visitation                         | \$600,000          | \$600,000          | -                      | -       | -                | \$600,000              |
| Media                                   | \$57,212           | \$57,212           | -                      | -       | -                | \$57,212               |
| Oral Health                             | \$190,000          | \$190,000          | -                      | -       | -                | \$190,000              |
| Quality First                           | \$700,645          | \$700,645          | -                      | -       | -                | \$700,645              |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships   | \$1,583,670        | \$1,583,670        | -                      | -       | -                | \$1,583,670            |
| Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness | -                  | -                  | \$10,580               | -       | -                | \$10,580               |
| Scholarships TEACH                      | -                  | -                  | -                      | -       | -                | -                      |
| Statewide Evaluation                    | \$70,589           | \$70,589           | -                      | -       | -                | \$70,589               |
| <b>Total Allotment:</b>                 | <b>\$3,336,516</b> | <b>\$3,336,516</b> | <b>\$10,580</b>        |         | <b>\$600,000</b> | <b>\$2,747,096</b>     |
| <b>Total Unallotted:</b>                | <b>\$628,243</b>   |                    |                        |         |                  |                        |





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May 22, 2012

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman  
First Things First  
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council, I am writing to request a modification to the Central Pima Fiscal Year 2013 Regional Funding Plan. The specific changes for your consideration are outlined below.

#### New and Revised Strategies:

The Board previously approved the Community Partnerships strategy, which had three designated components to seek innovative approaches in reaching disconnected populations, including families who were disconnected from health-based supports, families who would benefit from early literacy and language enrichment and lastly, a component designated to reach Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers.

In 2011, a Request for Grant Application (RFGA) was released for the purpose of locating, engaging and offering supports to these hard to reach populations. Following the formal RFGA review process, the Review Committee recommended awarding two of the three components that focused on engaging disconnected families and recommended the Regional Council to further refine the FFN component and in the future re-release a RFGA. The Regional Council recognized that additional work and specification of a FFN model was required to address needs and to clearly outline the intent of the Regional Council. The Regional Council subsequently held a workgroup meeting and engaged in focused discussions for several months during regular Regional Council meetings. As a result, the Regional Council further refined the FFN component of the Community Partnerships strategy; electing to create a stand-alone strategy which is anticipated to be released under a new FTF strategy classification, Family, Friends and Neighbors, and through a newly released RFGA in the amount of \$100,000. Funds in the total amount of \$100,000 that were originally designated to the FFN Component of the Community Partnerships strategy and previously approved by the Board, were reallocated to the FFN stand-alone strategy during the April 11, 2012 Regional Council meeting.

The goal of the FFN care strategy is to provide support; offer comprehensive professional development; increase peer networking; build a sense of community; and link resources and referrals that are targeted to unregulated providers who care for young children in their homes in the Central Pima region. A strategy worksheet, which outlines the intent of the Regional Council in greater detail, is attached.

The Central Pima Regional Partnership Council respectfully requests your consideration of approval this modification of the Fiscal Year 2013 Regional Funding Plan.

Sincerely,

Marguerite "Peg" Harmon, Chair

Central Pima Regional Partnership Council



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*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## Proposed Funding Plan Summary

**FY 2013 - Central Pima**

| Total Allocation: \$11,535,929                      |                     |                     |                        |         |                     |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Strategy  | Original Allotment  | Current Allotment   | Proposed New Allotment | Awarded | New NON-REGAS       |
| Child Care Health Consultation                      | \$199,080           | \$199,080           | -                      | -       | \$199,080           |
| Community Awareness                                 | \$10,000            | \$10,000            | -                      | -       | \$10,000            |
| Community Based Professional Development Early Care | \$750,000           | \$750,000           | -                      | -       | \$750,000           |
| Community Outreach                                  | \$70,000            | \$70,000            | -                      | -       | \$70,000            |
| Community Partnerships                              | \$300,000           | \$300,000           | \$200,000              | -       | \$200,000           |
| Evaluation  | -                   | -                   | -                      | -       | -                   |
| Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense    | \$462,000           | \$462,000           | -                      | -       | \$462,000           |
| Family, Friends & Neighbors                         | -                   | -                   | \$100,000              | -       | \$100,000           |
| FTF Professional REWARD\$                           | \$303,750           | \$303,750           | -                      | -       | \$303,750           |
| Home Visitation                                     | \$2,250,000         | \$2,250,000         | -                      | -       | \$2,250,000         |
| Media   | \$67,000            | \$67,000            | -                      | -       | \$67,000            |
| Mental Health Consultation                          | \$492,000           | \$492,000           | -                      | -       | \$492,000           |
| Parent Education Community-Based Training           | \$396,000           | \$396,000           | -                      | -       | \$396,000           |
| Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships                       | \$723,899           | \$723,899           | -                      | -       | \$723,899           |
| Quality First                                       | \$1,420,125         | \$1,420,125         | -                      | -       | \$1,420,125         |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships               | \$3,411,511         | \$3,333,511         | -                      | -       | \$3,333,511         |
| Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness             | -                   | \$11,500            | -                      | -       | \$11,500            |
| Scholarships non-TEACH                              | \$45,000            | \$45,000            | -                      | -       | \$45,000            |
| Scholarships TEACH                                  | \$336,227           | \$336,227           | -                      | -       | \$336,227           |
| Statewide Evaluation                                | \$299,274           | \$299,274           | -                      | -       | \$299,274           |
| <b>Total Allotment:</b>                             | <b>\$11,535,866</b> | <b>\$11,469,366</b> | <b>\$300,000</b>       |         | <b>\$92,740</b>     |
| <b>Total Unallotted:</b>                            |                     | <b>\$66,563</b>     |                        |         |                     |
|   |                     |                     |                        |         | <b>\$11,469,366</b> |



|   |
|---|
| <b>Strategy: Family, Friends and Neighbors</b>  |
| <b>Strategy Description</b>   |
| Improves the quality of care and education that children receive in unregulated child care homes.   |
| <b>Strategy Narrative</b>   |
| <p>The First Things First (FTF) State Board previously approved the Innovative Small Grants strategy, which had a designated Component to reach Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers. In 2011, a Request For Grant Application (RFGA) was released for the purpose of locating, engaging and offering supports to this hard to reach population. After the release of and response to the RFGA, the Regional Council discovered that additional work and specification of a model was needed to address specific needs and to clearly outline the intent of the Regional Council. In response, the Regional Council has further refined the FFN Component of the Innovative Small Grants strategy and has now created a stand-alone FFN strategy that is anticipated to be re-released under this new classification and through a new RFGA.</p> <p>The goal of the FFN Care strategy is to provide support; offer comprehensive professional development; increase peer networking; build a sense of community; and link resources and referrals that are targeted to unregulated providers who care for young children in their homes in the Central Pima region.</p> <p>National estimates suggest that as many as 60 percent of all children need child care due to parent's employment and of these, as many as 50 percent of children ages 5 and under are cared for in home-based settings. The 2010 Central Pima Regional Needs and Assets report indicates there is a high percentage of families in the workforce and the availability of licensed child care placements do not coincide. For example, from the 2010 Needs and Assets report, over 54% of children under six live with two parents in the household that work in the Central Pima region. In addition, 78% of children under six living with one parent have that parent in the workforce. While the majority of parents in the region are working, the region has approximately 13,546 regulated child care placements for approximately 44,447 young children in the region. From these statistics, coupled with the high costs of regulated care (which can account up to 16-18 percent of gross family income, on average) and widespread poverty help inform the Regional Council of the existence of FFN care occurring within the Central Pima region.</p> <p>In Arizona, home-based child care providers can legally care for 4 children for pay, with a maximum limit of 6 children under the age of 12, including their own. For these homes, there is no licensing or regulatory requirement; therefore, there is no mechanism or support system in place to assist these providers in creating high-quality environments for the children in their care. Child care provided by family, friend, and neighbor caregivers, which is typically home-based child care, is for the most part legally exempt from regulation; and is of growing concern to parents and policymakers to ensure that children are in healthy and safe places with quality care.</p> <p>Providing professional development to FFN caregivers has the opportunity to strengthen the</p> |



relationship between child, family and caregiver. Further, professional development opportunities taking place in a community setting has the opportunity to reduce isolation, increase networking and build a sense of community. Evidence suggests professional development provided to home-based FFN caregivers can result in positive outcomes for children. In a study that included Arizona home-based providers, impact was noted in the following areas: safety in the home environment; establishing and maintaining a daily schedule for the children; encouraging providers to utilize the resources of their local library; developing a written formalized child care services agreement with parents; and other forms of support.<sup>1</sup>

The Regional Council recognizes that offering professional development is only one piece of successful implementation. One of the key components to successful strategy implementation is an innovative outreach and engagement plan to identify and encourage FFNs to willingly participate in the program. Understanding that this may take time, particularly to build relationships and instill trust; the Regional Council is emphasizing the importance of a grass roots and community-focused approach in engaging FFN caregivers.

Once FFN caregivers are identified, the intent is to utilize a facilitated group model that brings caregivers together to learn about topics that would blend community-based parent education (i.e. child development, health, literacy, safe sleeping, immunizations, etc.) coupled with child care topics such as importance of quality interactions, building relationships with the children in care and creating safe environments. FFN caregivers would be encouraged to bring the child(ren) they care for with them. There would be a period of time which the FFN caregiver would be able to learn about a designated topic in a community learning setting with his/her peers. At this time, child care would be provided so the FFN would have time to concentrate on learning and dialoging with peer FFN caregivers. At the end of the session, the FFN caregiver with the child(ren) would engage in a joint learning experience, such as a Stay and Play type class to help reinforce newly learned theories.

The FFN professional development and networking opportunities are anticipated to take place in a trusted community setting that is accessible and considered to be a community hub (i.e. a neighborhood library, place of worship, elementary school, neighborhood center). Classes would be ongoing and the same group of FFNs would meet to help build rapport and networking. At each session, FFN caregivers would learn a new concept that will build upon prior concepts learned. Sessions will encourage networking with peers and will help reduce feelings of isolation and help build a sense of community. Sessions will also integrate other linkages, resources and referrals to other programs and services that may be beneficial to the FFN caregiver and/or the children in their care.

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<sup>1</sup> ERIC Education Resource Information Center, ED496388, Strategies for Supporting Quality in Kith and Kin Child Care: Findings from the Early Head Start Enhanced Home Visiting Pilot Evaluation. Final Report, <http://eric.ed.gov>

The Regional Council is cognizant that this is a FTF approved strategy in meeting the needs of FFN caregivers and similar models such as the strategy proposed have been successfully implemented in other regions in the state, which the Regional Council reviewed in their strategic planning process.

#### **Target Population Description**

Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers that reside in the zip codes 85705, 85711 and 85713, which are three zip codes in the region that exhibit some of the most extenuating needs, as identified in the 2010 Central Pima Needs and Assets report. It is anticipated that each zip code would have one community hub of approximately 18 FFN caregivers (in total 54 FFN caregivers will be targeted).

| <b>Target Service Units</b>           | <b>FY 13</b> | <b>FY 14</b> | <b>FY 15</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Number of home based providers served | 18*          | 54           | 54           |
| <b>Funding Level</b>                  | <b>FY 13</b> | <b>FY 14</b> | <b>FY 15</b> |
|                                       | \$100,000**  | \$100,000    | \$100,000    |

\*The Target Service Unit of 18 providers for Fiscal Year 2013 accounts for a delayed award (likely the contract for the first year would be an 8-9 month contract). Also, the Regional Council is cognizant of the time needed to conduct outreach and engage FFN caregivers, a hard to reach population, particularly in the prioritized zip codes. In response, the Regional Council expects at minimum of 1 community hub of FFN caregivers to be in place and active by the end of Fiscal Year 2013.

\*\*The intent of the Regional Council is to release the RFGA with the full 12 month award and is electing to not pro-rate the award. The intent of not pro-rating the funding allotment is to provide initial funds to ramp up the program and focus on outreach and recruitment of the target population. The Regional Council will explicitly explain the funding amounts in the re-release of the RFGA.